

[illegible]

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application the Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the first line on page 1, insert the following:

--This application claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/220,204, filed July 24, 2000 --

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to claim priority of copending Provisional Serial No. 60/220,204, filed July 24, 2000.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith. The Information Disclosure Statement lists the references considered by the Examiner in the parent application.